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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 10, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DONNA F. EDWARDS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

FINDING A CREDIBLE APPROACH TO THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 1 minute.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, this is an ad that appeared in newspapers around the country. It is an iceberg. We can see what is going to happen. It says:

"Today's economic crisis is just the tip of the iceberg.

"\$56 trillion.

"We must focus on a much larger yet less visible threat: the \$56 trillion in liabilities and unfunded retirement and health care obligations (that's \$483,000

per U.S. household), and the dangerous reliance on foreign lenders that threaten our ship of state.

"Fortunately, the Obama administration and a growing number of congressional leaders recognize the urgent need to address these challenges with entitlement, budget, spending, and tax reforms. We believe a capable and credible approach is necessary: an action-oriented, bipartisan commission that will engage the American people, that will consider all options and that will make sensible recommendations that will be guaranteed to be put to a vote in Congress.

"Meeting today's challenges is very important, but addressing these structural challenges is crucial to navigating a better future for our children and grandchildren."

The question is, Madam Speaker, will this Congress deal with the greatest economic crisis that we have faced for the last 50 years?

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN FETCHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true icon of Colorado, Mr. John R. Fetcher. John Fetcher passed away on Friday, February 6, 2009. He was 97 years old.

I saw John Fetcher just last week at the Colorado Water Congress meeting in Denver. He was a mentor to me, and he epitomized the phrase "the stuff that legends are made of."

In 1949, John decided to move to northwest Colorado where he settled on the Elk River outside of Steamboat Springs. A Harvard-trained engineer and a rancher at heart, John Fetcher made his mark on Colorado by building reservoirs, by managing water districts and by bringing what is now the Steamboat Ski Area into the modern age.

Fetcher was a pioneer in the ski industry. He designed and tested the first metal ski; he revolutionized the building of ski jumps and ski areas, and he was elected to the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame.

However, it was John's work of preserving the water of the Yampa Valley that he claimed as his most successful accomplishment. In a 2006 interview and at 96 years young, he explained, "If they take our water, we're out of business. It's that simple." He understood, perhaps more than anyone I have ever met, that water truly is the lifeblood of the West.

In the 1970s, he led the effort to build the Yamcolo Reservoir, calling it a "godsend to the ranchers." He followed his effort with the creation of Steamboat Lake and Stagecoach Reservoir, complete with a small hydro-powered plant.

Throughout his career, John Fetcher created, managed and continued to work with local water and sewer districts such as the Mount Werner Sewer and Water District and the Upper Yampa River Water Conservancy District. Fetcher also served two terms as a member of the Colorado Water Conservation Board from 1970 to 1980. A farmer and rancher himself, John was connected to the land and knew the value of a hard day's work.

Last year, I was shocked to pick up the paper and see the headline blare "Fletcher to semi-retire." He was 96 years old at the time. I guess he had the right to switch only to part-time work.

Colorado lost a legend on Friday—a lover of life, a caretaker of our precious land and water, a tireless worker, a pioneer in the ski industry, a rancher, a devoted public servant, and a loving father and grandfather. He was one of the finest men whom I have ever met. He will be missed but never forgotten, having left a legacy that will live on for generations to come.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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